

>> BASKETBALL PREVIEW ISSUE >>

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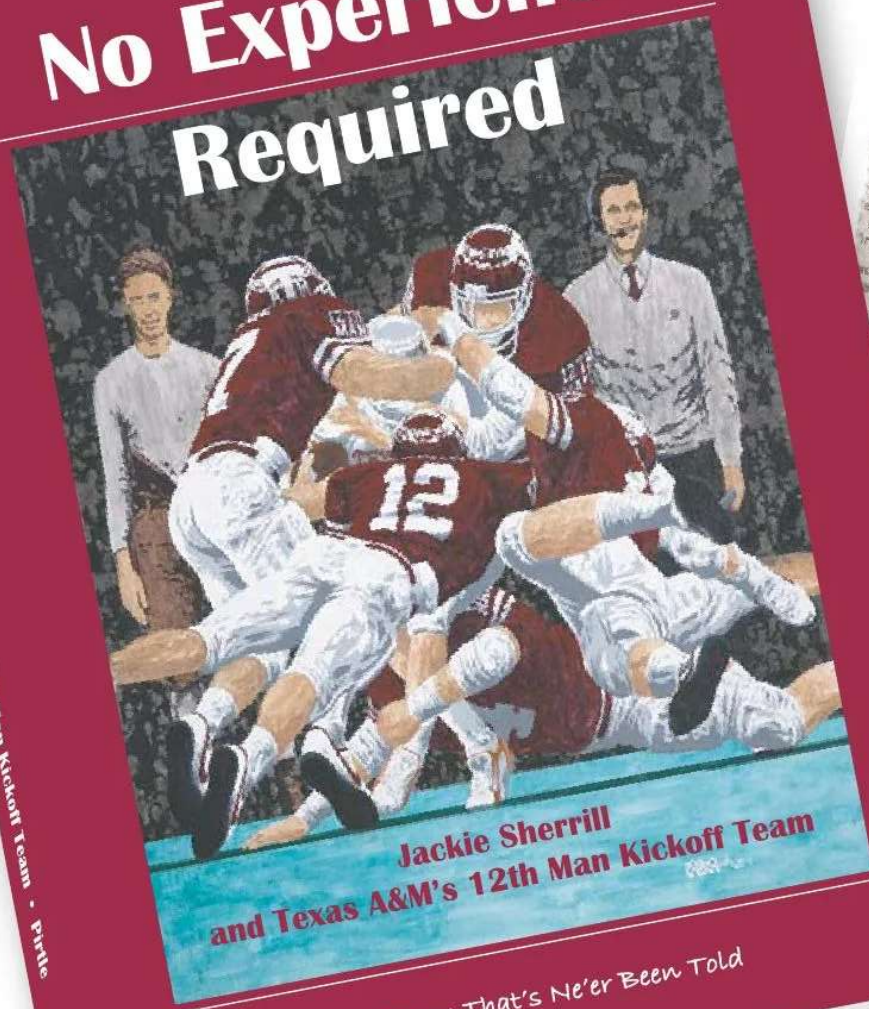


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Aggie Football, Coach Turgeon, Women's Basketball Seniors,  
The McCoy Brothers, The Cox-McFerrin Center, Kirby Ennis,  
Texas A&M Sports Museum, Martellus Bennett and More

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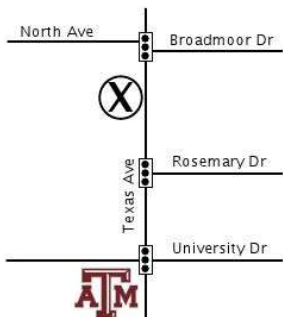
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On the Cover: Senior Josh Carter leads a new-look Aggie basketball team in 2008-09. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

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A Texas A&M men's basketball team without #22 Dominique Kirk in the starting lineup hasn't been seen since 2003.

## Howdy!

It's hard for me to believe that basketball season is already upon us. On one hand, I'm excited to see what Mark Turgeon and Gary Blair put on the court this year. But on the other hand, the beginning of basketball also indicates that football season is winding down to a close. And despite the Ags' struggles on the field, I'm never happy when the long football offseason begins.

Both the men's and women's basketball programs lost key leadership to graduation last season. It will be strange to not see Dominique Kirk, Joseph Jones, Aqua Franklin or Morenike Atunrase out there leading the charge. Accepting the absence of my boy Kirk will be especially tough for me because he is easily my favorite Aggie athlete of all time. Fortunately, with the experience the Ags have returning combined with the incoming talent, both programs are sure to continue their rise to the elite level.

On the men's side, we got a chance to spend 30 minutes with Coach Turgeon to talk about his team. The man's passion for the game of basketball is undeniable. We should expect to see more of a typical Turgeon team this season and I for one am excited to see what they can do. That Q&A begins on page 27.

Coach Blair's women's basketball squad exceeded all expectations last season, breaking school records along the way to an Elite Eight match-up with eventual National Champion Tennessee. The Ags also brought home their second consecutive Big 12 title. Can they follow in the soccer program's footsteps and keep the trend going with back to back to back championships? See what senior leaders Danielle Gant, La Toya Micheaux and Takia Starks had to say on the subject on page 30.

Both programs have an extra reason to be excited entering this season as they have begun to move into their new digs – the Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball. The facility is not quite complete yet, but when it is, it will be the nicest facility in the nation. You can read more about the amazing amenities and see a few pictures on page 43.

Last but not least, the month of October was not kind to the Texas A&M football team. The Aggies likely played themselves out of bowl contention unless they can pull off an upset or two to end the season. There are plenty of bright spots, however, and it all begins with underclassmen contributing the majority of yards and points on offense, and big plays on defense. And despite a banged up offensive line and a struggling running game, sophomore quarterback Jerrod Johnson is rewriting the A&M record books. It's easy to see the progress the team has made in a short time this season, providing plenty of reasons to be optimistic for the future of the program. And who knows... they might surprise us and a Big 12 rival or two in November.

Gig'em Ags!

*Boia '01*

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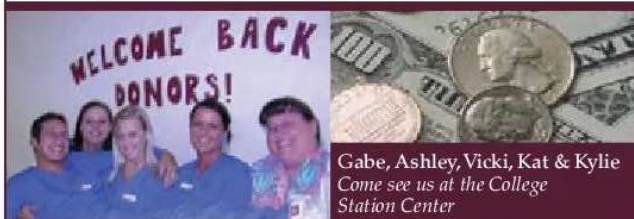
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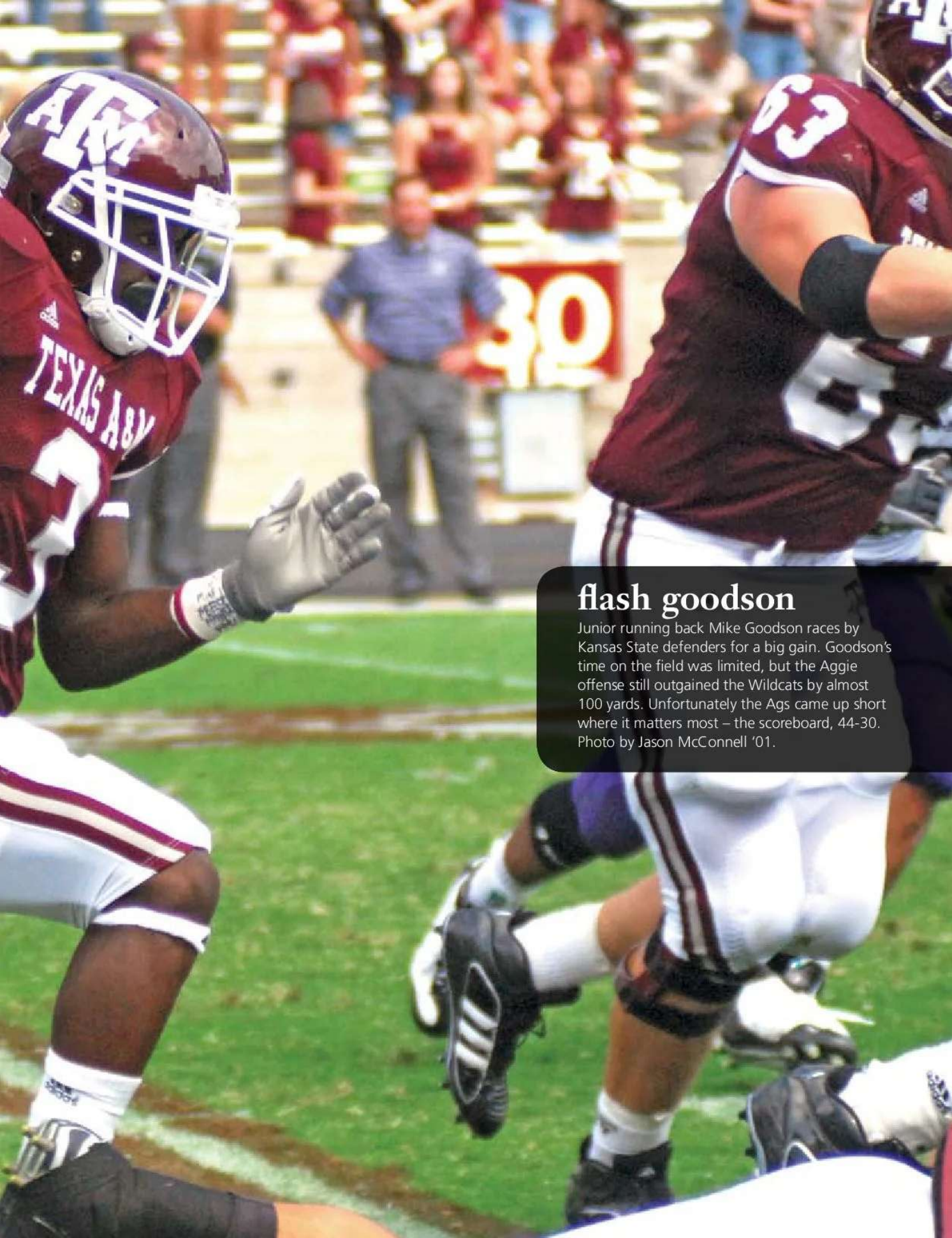
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## flash goodson

Junior running back Mike Goodson races by Kansas State defenders for a big gain. Goodson's time on the field was limited, but the Aggie offense still outgained the Wildcats by almost 100 yards. Unfortunately the Ags came up short where it matters most – the scoreboard, 44-30. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



## jump for joy

Ryan Tannehill, Pierre Brown and Jamie McCoy celebrate an Aggie touchdown in the first quarter of the Texas Tech game. The score – a 3 yard pass to Tannehill from Stephen McGee – capped a 14-play, 83-yard drive and gave A&M a 10-7 advantage over the Red Raiders. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



snapshot

## record-breaking

Since being thrust into the starting job due to an injury, sophomore Jerrod Johnson has been nothing short of record-breaking. With five starts under his belt, Johnson already owns several school records including passing yards (419) and accuracy (79.5%) in a game. When the dust settles, Johnson could hold the school record for accuracy, passing yards and touchdowns in a season as well. Photo by Charlie Neibergall (AP).





## high-flying

Junior Derrick Roland entertains the crowd by leaping over an Aggie Yell Leader for the slam. The A&M men's and women's basketball teams officially began practice for the 2008-09 season with Maroon Madness at Kyle Field in front of more than 20,000 students. Photos by Jason McConnell '01.





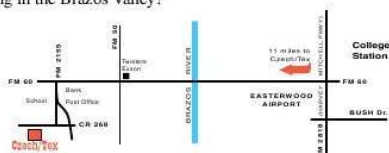


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recruiting profile:

## HUNTSVILLE'S KIRBY ENNIS

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

When Huntsville star defender Kirby Ennis pledged his commitment to play football for Texas A&M this summer, part of the reasoning was so that he could focus on his senior year of football. From the looks of things so far, Ennis appears to be honed in on helping the Hornets reach their potential.

The 6-4, 235-pound defensive end/linebacker has helped lead Huntsville to a 5-1 record this season, and has emerged as captain of the defense.

"He means a whole lot to our defense," Huntsville head coach Mitchell Coeysaid. "He takes charge out there and keeps the rest of the guys rallied behind him."

In a Friday night showdown against Magnolia in October, Ennis helped rally the Hornets from a 21-7 halftime deficit to an overtime victory, posting eleven tackles, two tackles for a loss, and a crucial 4th-quarter blocked punt.

Performances like that have to be music to the ears of Mike Sherman and the Aggie coaching staff, as several members of the class of 2009 will undoubtedly be called upon next season. According to Ennis, the treatment from the A&M staff



on a summertime unofficial visit helped make his decision an easy one.

"When I got there, the whole coaching staff treated me so well," Ennis said. "Everyone came over and introduced themselves and shook my hand. That's probably the biggest thing that led me to commit. They're all really experienced coaches and I know they're going to get things turned around down there."

In addition to the coaching staff, the Huntsville product came away impressed with the Aggies' facilities as well.

"They've got so many rooms to tutor players," he said. "I know it will help me study a lot. You can tell they really want you to succeed. The indoor facilities looked nice too. I know their players work hard and that's what I'm ready to get in there and do, too."

Ennis made the decision to commit to A&M on his own, but added that he has full support from his family.

"We all looked at it as the best opportunity for me," he said.

Indeed, the opportunities for Ennis, as well as the rest of the defensive commitments in the recruiting class of 2009, appear to be endless. **AW**

"When I got there, the whole coaching staff treated me so well. Everyone came over and introduced themselves and shook my hand. That's probably the biggest thing that led me to commit. They're all really experienced coaches and I know they're going to get things turned around down there."

—KIRBY ENNIS

# CLASS OF 2009 AGGIE COMMITMENTS



## AARON ARTERBURN (LB)

Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)  
HT: 6-3 WT: 225  
*Can really close on the football*



## STEPHEN BARRERA (OL)

Clear Lake (Clear Lake, TX)  
HT: 6-6 WT: 280  
*24-5A Second Team All-District DL*



## STEVEN CAMPBELL (DB)

Jersey Village (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-0 WT: 180  
*17-5A First Team All-District DB*



## KIRBY ENNIS (DE)

Huntsville (Huntsville, TX)  
HT: 6-4 WT: 235

**LUCCI SAYS:** Kirby Ennis chose the Aggies over offers from Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. A hard worker on and off the field, the Huntsville product is an imposing figure at the line of scrimmage. After a year or two on campus, he should blossom into a 6-5, 270-pound defensive end or even become an extremely quick interior lineman. Ennis calls himself an "improvement player" because he's always trying to make himself better.



## RICO FORBES (DE)

St. Pius (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-5 WT: 255  
*An imposing specimen and gifted athlete*



## KALVIN GUYTON (RB)

Lamar (Houston, TX)  
HT: 5-9 WT: 200  
*20-5A Offensive Most Valuable Player*



## DUSTIN HARRIS (ATH)

Livingston (Livingston, TX)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 175  
*18-4A Second Team All-District Utility Back*



## CHRIS HENDERSON (DT)

Carter (Dallas, TX)  
HT: 6-1 WT: 250  
*11-5A First Team All-District DL*



## BRANDAL JACKSON (WR)

Navasota (Navasota, TX)  
HT: 6-1 WT: 185  
*His leaping ability is off the charts*



## MALCOLM JOHNSON (LB)

Jersey Village (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 210  
*Great size, speed and athletic background*



## CORYELL JUDIE (DB)

Fort Scott CC (KS) (Fort Scott, KS)  
HT: 5-11 WT: 185  
*One of the nation's top JUCO cornerbacks*

	<b>MICHAEL LAMOTHE (LB)</b> New Iberia (LA) (New Iberia, LA) HT: 6-2 WT: 215 <i>Outstanding versatility and athleticism</i>
	<b>PATRICK LEWIS (OL)</b> East St. John's (LA) HT: 6-2 WT: 290 <i>One of the nation's top interior line recruits</i>
	<b>KENRICK MCNEAL (ATH)</b> Spring (Spring, TX) HT: 6-1 WT: 165 <i>16-5A First Team All-District QB</i>
	<b>CLINT NARON (OL)</b> Klein Oak (Klein, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 275 <i>Texas Football Super Team OL (1st)</i>
	<b>UZOMA NWACHUKWU (WR)</b> Allen (Allen, TX) HT: 6-0 WT: 180 <i>Great hands, acceleration and field vision</i>
	<b>SEAN PORTER (LB)</b> Schertz Clemens (Schertz, TX) HT: 6-2 WT: 205 <i>Tremendous athlete with great quickness</i>
	<b>HUTSON PRIOLEAU (TE)</b> All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 230 <i>The state's top-ranked tight end</i>
	<b>RHONTE SCALES (OL)</b> Killeen (Killeen, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 285 <i>16-4A First Team All-District OL</i>
	<b>JONATHAN STEWART (LB)</b> Shreveport Byrd (LA) (Shreveport, LA) HT: 6-4 WT: 220 <i>Tall, rangy, sideline-to-sideline linebacker</i>
	<b>RYAN SWOPE (ATH)</b> Austin Westlake (Austin, TX) HT: 6-0 WT: 190 <i>5A Honorable Mention All-State RB</i>
	<b>STEVEN TERRELL (DB)</b> Allen (Allen, TX) HT: 5-11 WT: 175 <i>Physical player with great speed</i>
	<b>CHARLIE THOMAS (DB)</b> Beaumont Central (Beaumont, TX) HT: 6-1 WT: 195 <i>22-4A First Team All-District OLB</i>
	<b>COLTON VALENCIA (DB)</b> Fort Bend Hightower (Fort Bend, TX) HT: 5-10 WT: 175 <i>Lockdown corner that hits like a safety</i>
	<b>ANDREW WEAVER (LB)</b> Waco (Waco, TX) HT: 6-3 WT: 225 <i>16-4A First Team All-District DE</i>

For complete coverage of Texas A&M recruiting, contact Billy Liucci of the Maroon & White Report at (979) 690-7361 or by visiting [www.agsports.com](http://www.agsports.com)

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# TOP 113 IN 09

## Quarterbacks (10)

	1 Garrett Gilbert Committed to Texas	Lake Travis	6-3	185
	2 Tyrik Rollison UH, FSU, KU, TCU, AZ	Sulphur Springs	6-2	185
	3 Cody Green Committed to Nebraska	Dayton	6-3	205
	4 Ryan Mossakowski Committed to Kentucky	Frisco Centennial	6-6	210
	5 Shevodrick Beaver Committed to Michigan	Wichita Falls Rider	6-4	200
	6 Drew Allen Committed to Oklahoma	Alamo Heights	6-4	195
	7 Jacob Karam Committed to Texas Tech	Friendswood	6-0	180
	8 Kolby Gray BC, CAL, OKS, TT, RICE	Cy Falls	6-2	180
	9 Christian Matthews Committed to Kansas	Bowie	6-4	180
	10 Casey Pachall Committed to TCU	Brownwood	6-4	185














## Running Backs (9)

	1 Christine Michael A&M, OU, OKS, LSU, TEX	Beaumont Westbrook	5-11	195
	2 Dexter Pratt Committed to LSU	Navasota	6-2	220
	3 Stepfan Taylor Committed to Stanford	Mansfield	6-0	185
	4 Knile Davis Committed to Arkansas	Marshall	6-0	205
	5 Calvin Guyton Committed to Texas A&M	Houston Lamar	5-9	200
	6 Jonathan Miller Committed to Oklahoma	Naaman Forest	6-0	180
	7 Hasan Lipscomb Committed to Minnesota	Cypress Ridge	5-11	205
	8 Toben Oporum	Plano East	6-2	225
	9 Jurell Thompson Committed to TCU	Wichita Falls Rider	5-10	190

















## Tight Ends (4)

	1 Hutson Prioleau Committed to Texas A&M	All Saints Episcopal	6-5	230
	2 Barrett Matthews Committed to Texas	North Shore	6-2	235
	3 Jordan Najvar Committed to Stanford	Klein Oak	6-6	235
	4 Trey Graham Committed to Texas	Waco Midway	6-5	225

## Wide Receivers (13)

	1 Greg Timmons Committed to Texas	Aldine Eisenhower	6-3	195
	2 Uzoma Nwachukwu Committed to Texas A&M	Allen	6-0	180
	3 Eric Ward Committed to Oklahoma	Wichita Falls Rider	5-11	185
	4 Brandal Jackson Committed to Texas A&M	Navasota	6-1	185
	5 DeWayne Peace Committed to Michigan	South Grand Prairie	5-11	170
	6 Marquis Goodwin Committed to Texas	Rowlett	5-9	160
	7 Josh Gordon A&M, TCU, MIZ, NEB, TT	Lamar	6-4	210
	8 Emory Blake FLA, LSU, ND, ORE, TEX	Austin	6-2	200
	9 Dameon Smith	Marshall	6-1	205
	10 Aaron Fisher Committed to Texas Tech	Fossil Ridge	6-4	200
	11 Jarrod Darden Committed to Colorado	Keller Central	6-4	210
	12 Jazman Reynolds Committed to Oklahoma	Aldine Eisenhower	6-4	180
	13 Chayse Joubert A&M, FSU, CAL, MIA, TT	Arlington Grace Prep	6-1	185

## Offensive Linemen (16)

	1 Mason Walters Committed to Texas	Frenship	6-8	290
	2 Rhonte Scales Committed to Texas A&M	Killeen	6-5	285
	3 Ivory Wade Committed to Baylor	Dickinson	6-3	285
	4 Stavion Lowe Committed to LSU	Brownwood	6-4	285
	5 Stephen Barrera Committed to Texas A&M	Clear Lake	6-6	280
	6 Clint Naron Committed to Texas A&M	Klein Oak	6-5	275
	7 Thomas Ashcraft Committed to Texas	Cedar Hill	6-5	280
	8 Garrett Porter Committed to Texas	Odessa Permian	6-6	300
	9 Ty Horn Committed to TCU	Waco Midway	6-5	270
	10 Kyle Clark Committed to Texas Tech	Denton Guyer	6-4	270
	11 Joel Gray Committed to Texas Tech	Hebron	6-6	285
	12 Josh Aladenoye Committed to Oklahoma	North Mesquite	6-5	300
	13 Paden Kelley Committed to Texas	Lake Travis	6-6	265
	14 Michael Brown Committed to Ole Miss	Lexington	6-5	295
	15 Jesse Coffey Committed to Nebraska	Denton Guyer	6-7	270
	16 Bobby Janisch Committed to Rice	Houston Jersey Village	6-6	290

## Defensive Tackles (8)

1	Jamarcus McFarland <i>A&amp;M, TEX, OU, LSU, OKS</i>	Lufkin	6-3	280
2	Chris Henderson <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Dallas Carter	6-1	250
3	Calvin Howell <i>Committed to Texas</i>	San Antonio Warren	6-4	270
4	James Dunbar <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Maud	6-6	290
5	Kyles Kriegel <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Elysian Fields	6-5	235
6	Nosa Eguare <i>Committed to Colorado</i>	Mansfield Summit	6-2	245
7	Bryant House <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Maud	6-4	265
8	Thaddeus Randle <i>Committed to Nebraska</i>	Northshore	6-1	250

## Linebackers (13)

1	Thomas Wort <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	New Braunfels	6-1	210
2	Tariq Allen <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Irving MacArthur	6-2	230
3	Brandon Mahoney <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Fossil Ridge	6-2	210
4	Sean Porter <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Schertz Clemens	6-2	205
5	Chris Williams <i>Committed to Nebraska</i>	Abilene	6-1	205
6	Andrew Weaver <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Waco	6-3	225
7	Malcolm Johnson <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Klein Collins	6-2	210
8	Chris McAllister	Converse Junction	6-2	210
9	Patrick Nkwopara <i>Committed to Texas</i>	South Grand Prairie	5-11	195
10	Austin Moss <i>Committed to Arkansas</i>	South Garland	6-2	205
11	Tanner Brock <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Copperas Cove	6-3	205
12	Rod Goodlow	Dallas Adamson	6-2	205
13	James Scott <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Coldspring	6-3	220

## Defensive Ends (9)

1	Michael Brockers <i>Committed to LSU</i>	Houston Chavez	6-3	230
2	Alex Okafor <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Pflugerville	6-4	220
3	Dominique Jones <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Kilgore	6-3	230
4	Terrance Lloyd <i>Committed to Missouri</i>	Houston Stratford	6-4	220
5	Kirby Ennis <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Huntsville	6-4	235
6	Rico Forbes <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	St. Pius	6-5	255
7	Brandon Henderson <i>Committed to SMU</i>	Abilene Cooper	6-3	225
8	Josh Skinner <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Silsbee	6-5	225
9	Kerry Hyder <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Austin LBJ	6-3	230

## Defensive Backs (20)

1	Craig Loston <i>A&amp;M, LSU, TEX, ORE</i>	Aldine Eisenhower	6-3	185
2	Kevin Brent <i>KU, MIA, LSU, TEX, TT</i>	South Oak Cliff	6-0	210
3	Steve Williams <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Dallas Skyline	5-10	160
4	Marcus Davis <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Clear Creek	6-1	180
5	Eryon Barnett <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Eules Trinity	6-2	180
6	Steven Terrell <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Allen	5-11	175
7	A.J. Dugat <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Dayton	6-1	195
8	Colton Valencia <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	5-10	175
9	Charlie Thomas <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Beaumont Central	6-1	195
10	Kenny Vaccaro <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Brownwood	6-0	175
11	Will Ford <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Abilene Cooper	6-1	190
12	Stephen Campbell <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Jersey Village	6-0	180
13	Marcus Trice <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Mesquite	5-8	170
14	Desmond Gardiner <i>A&amp;M, TCU, BU, FLA, VT</i>	Port Arthur Memorial	5-11	180
15	Terrance Bullitt <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Naaman Forest	6-3	180
16	Eddie Foster	Colleyville Heritage	6-0	175
17	Yahshua Williams <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Denton Ryan	6-3	185
18	Dele Junaide <i>Committed to Ole Miss</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	6-2	185
19	Dexter Linton <i>Committed to Kansas</i>	Arlington Bowie	6-0	185
20	Thomas Bates <i>Committed to Houston</i>	Baytown Lee	5-11	180

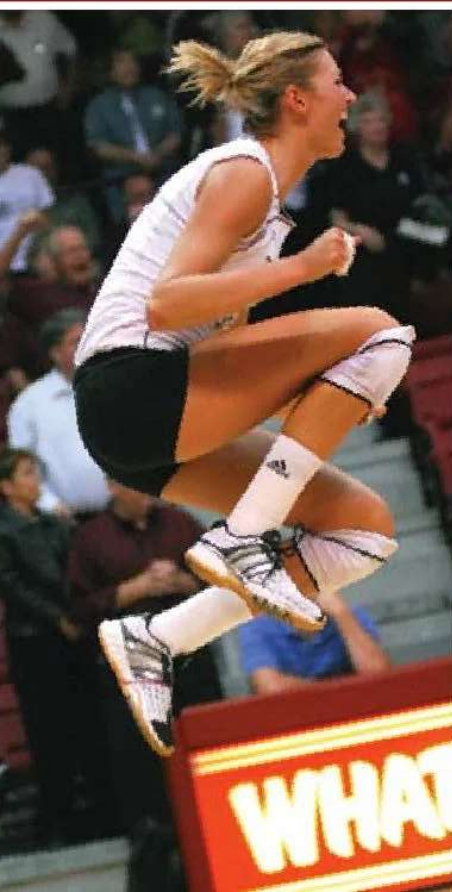
## Athletes (11)

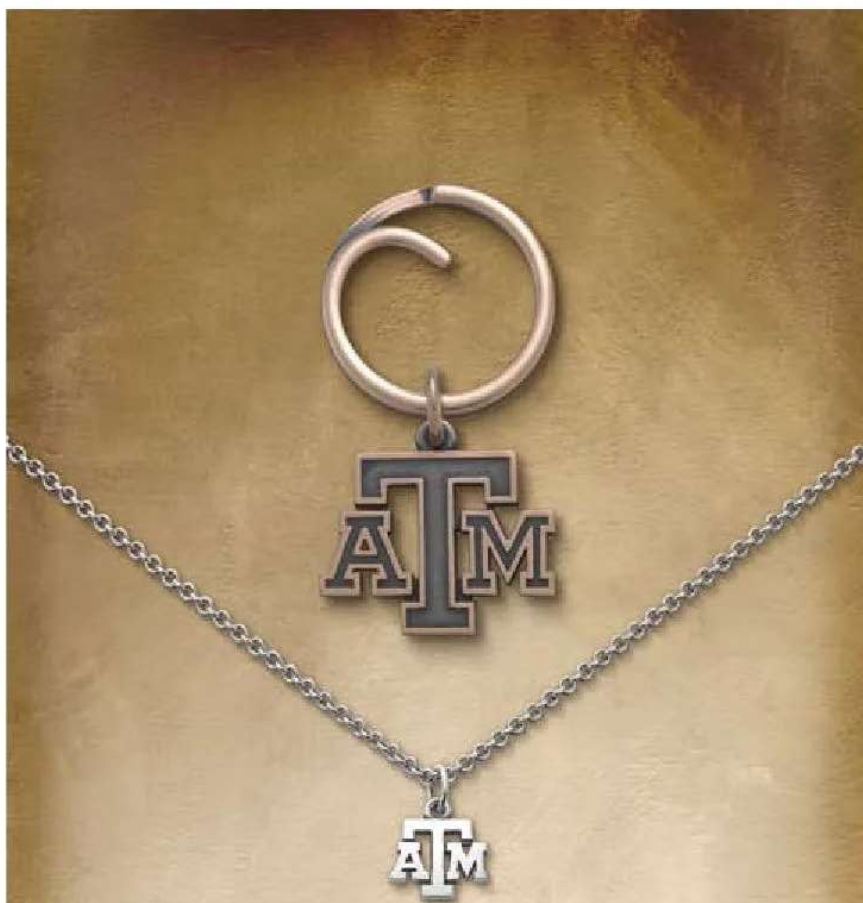
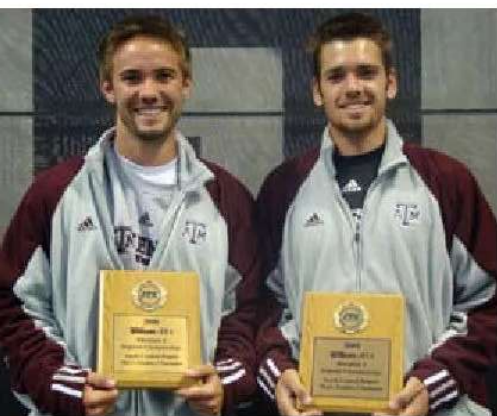
1	Russell Shepard <i>Committed to LSU</i>	Cy Ridge	6-2	195
2	Chris Whaley <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Madisonville	6-2	205
3	Ryan Swope <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Austin Westlake	6-0	190
4	Darius Jones <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Marshall	6-0	180
5	Rex Burkhead <i>BAMA, NEB, AUB, KU, STA</i>	Plano	6-0	190
6	Kenric McNeal <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Spring	6-1	165
7	Dustin Harris <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Livingston	6-2	175
8	A.J. Highsmith <i>Committed to Miami</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	6-0	185
9	Richard Morrison <i>Committed to Arizona</i>	Royse City	6-0	170
10	Charles Ross <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Schertz-Clemens	6-1	195
11	Broderick Jackson <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Kirbyville	5-11	200

This list is current as of October 27, 2008. Sign up for the Maroon & White Report at [www.agsports.com](http://www.agsports.com) to get recruiting news as it happens.



(soccer) Despite having to replace arguably the most talented senior class in program history, the Texas A&M soccer team finished the regular season with a remarkable 15-3-1 record (7-2-1 in Big 12 play). At press time, the conference race has yet to be decided although Oklahoma State is expected to claim the crown. Regardless of that outcome, the Aggies have an excellent shot at winning their fifth consecutive conference title in the Big 12 tournament, playing as either a No. 1 or 2 seed. (volleyball) The Aggie volleyball team will need a strong final month of the regular season to earn an invitation to the NCAA tournament this year. Unfortunately, as is typically the case, they will be facing a daunting Big 12 schedule along the way. The team has been up and down all season, so now more than ever would be a perfect time for an upswing. (tennis) Texas A&M senior All-American Conor Pollock (left) and sophomore All-American Austin Krajicek (right) won the Wilson/ITA South Central Region Doubles Championship title in October, the third Aggie duo in school history accomplish such a feat. Pollock won the singles title as well becoming only the second player in school history to do so.





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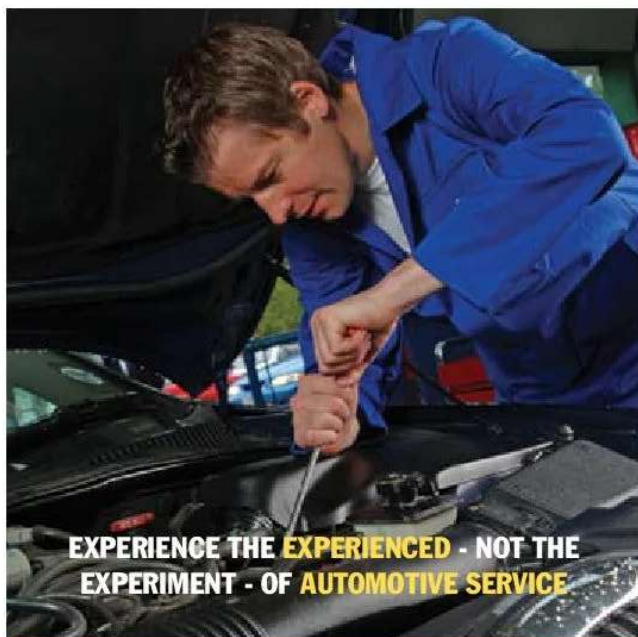
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 @NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day	3 @NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day	4 @NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day	5 @Big 12 Champs TBA Nebraska 6:30 pm Texas A&M - Kingsville (Exh.) 7 pm	6 @Big 12 Champs TBA	7 @Big 12 Champs TBA Houston Jaguars (Exh.) 7 pm	8 @Big 12 Champs TBA Oklahoma TBA @Oklahoma State 10 am
			12 Iowa State 6:30 pm	13	14 NCAAs Begin TBA Mercer 8 pm	15 @Baylor TBA @NCAA South Central Regional TBA TCU 1 pm @Baylor 7 pm
16 Arkansas (m) - Pine Bluff 2 pm Pittsburgh (w) (Baton Rouge) 4 pm	17	18 Stephen F. Austin 7 pm	19 @Oklahoma 7 pm	20 @Michigan (w) 5:30 pm	21 Art Adamson Invitational All Day Jackson State (m) 7 pm	22 Art Adamson Invitational All Day @Baylor 11 am Colorado 6:30 pm
23 Art Adamson Invitational All Day	24 @NCAA Champs TBA	25 UNC - Wilmington 7 pm @Arizona 8 pm	26 Texas Tech 6:30 pm	27 @Texas 7 pm Thanksgiving	28 Penn State (w) (Malibu, CA) 3 pm @Missouri 6:30 pm Tulsa (South Padre Island) 7:30 pm	29 Illinois/Kent State (South Padre Island) TBA Pepperdine/ Coppin State (w) (Malibu, CA) 3/5:30 pm
30	1 @Stephen F. Austin 7:30 pm	2	3	4 NCAAs Begin TBA	5 Arizona (m) 8:30 pm	6
7 SMU 1 pm	8	9	10			13 @Alabama (m) 7 pm Texas State (w) 7:30 pm
14	15 Florida A&M (m) 7 pm	16	17 SMU 7 pm			20 LSU (Houston) (m) 3:30 pm
21 TCU 1 pm	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27



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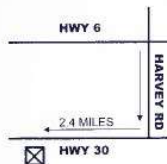
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# new-look **AGGIES**

Twelve questions for head coach Mark Turgeon about the 2008-09 Texas A&M men's basketball team

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

## **How do you replace Dominique Kirk and Joseph Jones?**


Joe and Dominique were such a huge part of the turnaround of Aggie basketball. Their four years here were as good as any four year stretch we've ever had. It's going to be kind of different for Aggie fans without those two around. But I think our guys know it's their time to step up. Josh Carter has had a fantastic offseason. Bryson Graham is a natural born leader even though he is coming off another knee injury. I actually think his injury helps him to be a little bit of a better leader because he's sitting back and can observe. I think guys like Bryan Davis and Donald Sloan are ready to step up and do what they have to do. So, I think we'll lead by committee and I think we have a chance to have great chemistry with this team.

## **Who do you expect to be the leader on the court?**

I think Davis and Sloan will both do it in their own way. I think Josh will surprise you this year. When you get to be a senior you can see that light at the end of the tunnel and a lot of guys don't want their career to end. Josh is one of those guys that would love to stay at A&M the rest of his life and play basketball, but he can't, so he is going to try and make this year really special. B.J. Holmes is a leader and is capable. Even though he's a freshman, Dash Harris is a natural leader out there and understands the game. We've got guys that you don't know about. The Chris Chapman's. The guys that don't play a lot. There are a lot of guys in the locker room that do a lot for this team that no one hears about. They're solid kids that have a way to communicate with their team to help them understand what it takes to be successful.

## **What do you expect from the freshmen this season?**

We're really counting on Dash and David Loubeau to be a part of the rotation this year. They both have the ability and the talent – it's how well they can adjust to the college game and the practices and all that. I think it'll be a little bit easier for Dash to adjust, since he is a leader and a point guard. They've had great workouts with the team. It's the whole learning curve and getting into games and being able to handle



"Josh Carter is one of those guys that would love to stay at A&M the rest of his life and play basketball, but he can't, so he is going to try and make this year really special."

—COACH MARK TURGEON

"Hopefully six or seven years from now, I'll look back and we are sold out every night, and you're just thinking 'Wow!' Every year we're a top 10 or top 20 program in the country and people are just really excited about our basketball program."

—COACH MARK TURGEON

that atmosphere. It's going to be a process for both of them. Hopefully come Big 12 time, they're both a big part of what we're trying to do.

**How do you help them adjust to harder practices and the different atmosphere?**

Fortunately, all three of our freshmen, including James Blaszyk, have great work habits. Last year we had to teach everyone – even some coaches because I had a lot of new coaches. Now, I tell the freshmen, "we're not going to wait for you, you have to catch up to us." So, they're going to struggle a little bit. It's one step at a time. I tell all our players, but especially our freshmen, "don't get too high, don't get too low and some days are better than others. It's never as good as you think and it's never as bad as you think. Just keep trying to do your best every day." I think this is a pretty good group of guys that will handle it well and we will be able to move along quickly with the process.

**What improvements do you expect from the team this season?**

Knock on wood. We'll see when the lights go on. We've shed body fat, we're faster, we're stronger and our weight room stats are way up. We look like a whole different team. We look like a basketball team. Last year we looked like an NBA team. We were so big and we weren't the fastest team in the world. I think Josh has really improved since last season. He may look the same to most people, but he's stronger, he's quicker, he's faster and he's jumping higher. His skill work has improved. I think Sloan had the best spring of anyone and his fall has been pretty good as well. He lost some weight and has gotten faster. Bryan Davis has changed his body. He played about 255 pounds last year and he's about 238 now. Chinemelu Elonu did what I asked him to do. He put on some weight and his weight room stats have gone way up from a year ago. Walkup has put on 10-15 pounds of muscle. B.J. Holmes lost some of that baby fat he had last year. The guys have worked hard, and I'm really proud of them. We want to continue to win at the level this program is used to, but we want to change the way we play a little bit. We want to be a little faster offensively, and be a little bit more of a passing game team, which we weren't able to do last year and may not be able to do this year. We'll find out.

**What did you learn the most in the past year?**

I don't know how much I've changed since last year. There were a couple of homes games that we lost that I wish we hadn't. If I had been around the program a little longer, then I probably would have done some things differently during those games. But what I learned – and I hope I don't ever move again – is that I went into a place and I didn't try to change everything and it caught up with me during the season. So, I said, "screw it. I can't take it anymore. I'm getting all the blame, so I'm not going to give in." That's what I learned. My way is good and we're going to do it that way. It's night and day from how I felt this time last year to how I feel today.

**Who do you see scoring points this year?**

Josh, Sloan, and Davis are guys we're going to

hang our hat on. If those three can handle it each and every night, then they'll be our big three. I'm hoping that a guy like Chinemelu can grow up. He's really starting to play at a high level. Will it continue when the lights are on? We'll see. He was coming on late last year. It's his time. He's paid his dues. Can B.J. Holmes or Walkup step up? I think we were all counting on them more last year and they didn't give it to us. Can they help the program in the way that everyone thought they could when they were coming out of high school? They are important. I think Loubeau and Dash will be able to help us at times. Loubeau will be our big-time scorer down the road. He's just got a natural ability to score. I think Dash could be our all-time assist leader when it's all said and done. You know to have a great team you need a lot of guys to step up. To have 20-25 wins, which we hope to be every year here, you need a lot of guys to step up.

**Talk about Josh testing the draft, coming back and what he means to the program.**

I think it was a humbling experience for him. I think he's glad he did it. He is so driven right now. He pulled his name out quickly, which I thought was smart. He has worked his tail off ever since. I think about the day we got here and where he is now. He was a jump shooter when we got here and now he's a defender, he's a passer, he can handle the ball and he can score off the dribble. I'm really proud of him and how he's evolved his game. I know there was a lot of pressure on him last year, but I just hope he plays the game this year because he loves it and plays with a passion and doesn't worry about all the consequences. If he does that he will have a great year. There was a lot of pressure on him last year and quite frankly we didn't have a lot of scorers. You go from Acie Law having the best defender on him, getting shots for Josh, to where all you have to do was guard Josh last year. It was really hard for him. He had to force some shots in order for us to be successful. Then he comes off from everyone saying what a great shooter he was – that's a lot of pressure. There was no pressure on him when it was all Acie, Acie, Acie. I think he'll handle it a lot better this year. The 50-percent year was just an unbelievable year. I don't expect him to do that. If we can get him to 40-41 percent he will have a heck of a year because we can get him a lot of shots.

**What are your thoughts on the this year's schedule?**

I like our non-conference schedule. I knew we'd be a young team and that we were losing Joe and Dominique, and I knew DeAndre was leaving – it was my gut feeling that he was leaving. So we wanted to put together a schedule that was conducive to where our team is, and I think this schedule fits that. It's a difficult schedule. You look at Stephen F. Austin. They beat a whole bunch of teams and got everybody back. It's going to be a heck of a tough game for us. Tulsa was in their conference championship last season and they have almost everyone back. Then you have Alabama and they're supposed to have a great team this year. Then, Arizona at home, and we all know how good Arizona always is. Then, LSU in Houston – we wanted to get a game over there. We have a few more

road games, neutral court, while last year we didn't play too many road games. I like to play all home games, but I think it's good for your kids to break up the monotony of playing at home, and traveling and challenging them. We've got a heck of a challenging schedule, but a good RPI schedule. We have a lot of teams on our schedule that are going to win a lot of games and that helps our RPI. Then, you talk about the beginning of the Big 12. To me, all 16 are hard, but if you look at the first 5, it's a pretty brutal stretch.

#### **What is it like coaching in the Big 12?**

The league is really good. Last year it was through-the-roof good. We had the national champion, Texas was in the final 8, and we got 6 teams into the tournament. It was a heck of a league. The south is really good. You get Texas twice, Oklahoma is going to be really good this year with Blake Griffin and the rest of the crew. It's quite a league and it's going to have good players. I understand that. But, I think we have young, hungry coaches out here trying to get it done. So, I think the league will continue to be good. The north is getting better. We signed an ESPN contract and we added so many games and I think it really helped our league. It's a challenge to battle. You hope you stay healthy, you hope you're playing well during that two-

month period and you hope you catch a lot of breaks. It's a fine line between whether you're one of the tops teams, or the top team, or just a middle roader towards the end. I think we underachieved a little bit last year. I thought during the league race, we lost a couple home games we should not have lost. We were a pretty good road team – 4-4. But my teams have always done well in the league so I'm not worried about that, we'll make the adjustments we need to make and hopefully we'll be a really good road and league team.

#### **What are your thoughts on going back to Lawrence this year to coach against your Alma mater?**

Am I looking forward to it? Not really, to be honest with you. I love KU. Ever since I can remember I was going to KU basketball games. It was just a big part of my life and then of course playing there. But, I never thought I'd be on the other bench coaching in that building. It will be fun because I'll see a lot of people that were a big part of my life, and a lot of family and friends. Bottom line though – I just really hope we play well that night. It's a Big Monday, so it will be a big game. But that place – KU – has always been good to me. Their fans have been really good to me over the years. I hate playing them, but it will be an exciting night.

#### **What do you like most about coaching at Texas A&M?**

I really like my team. They're good kids. We are in the Big 12, our program is growing, and where we are located gives us a chance to be really successful. I loved where I was, but I think this program gives us the chance to really play in the league that I want if we do our job. I'm excited about that. I think A&M basketball has come a long way, but we've got so far to go. We still don't fill up our student section like we should. With 46,000 students we should have every seat filled for every game. That's something I'm going to work on this year. Win or lose, it's still their team. It's big-time college basketball. That's something we need to make better. It's going to be a process and it's up to me to keep it going and hopefully take it to another level. You can't get it done in one year. There were some things we accomplished last year that I'm really proud of. We had 25 wins – 3rd most in school history. This year I have some things I want to do for the program, and we are doing them. Maybe next year I can do a couple more. Hopefully six or seven years from now, I'll look back and we are sold out every night, and you're just thinking "Wow!" Every year we're a top 10 or top 20 program in the country and people are just really excited about our basketball program. **AM**



## **FIVE QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR FORWARD JOSHUA CARTER**

#### **How much have you changed since you arrived at A&M?**

I came in here at about 175 pounds and I've gained 35 pounds over the past 3 years. I've learned so much from both coaches – Gillispie and Turgeon. I feel like I'm a completely different player now.

#### **Do you feel like the old guy on the team?**

Yes I do. I feel like the old guy walking around campus. That's something I have to get used to I guess.

#### **What did you learn from your experience in the NBA Draft?**

All the teams told me that they think I have all the tools, but they want to see me use them more. And they want to see more consistency.

#### **How do you feel about running more of Coach Turgeon's offense this season?**

Oh, I love the motion offense. It gives you a lot more opportunities to score off of screens, and it helps develop the players. I think it's a great offense.

#### **How does it feel being a role model?**

It's still very surreal that people look up to me and want my autograph. I think it's funny. It's a cool part of it.

# back to back to back?



A third consecutive Big 12 title would be nice, but seniors Danielle Gant, La Toya Micheaux and Takia Starks want more

BY KATIE MCCONNELL '09

**Take us on a quick tour of your three seasons at A&M.**

**MICHEAUX:** Our freshmen year was a big experience. Two years ago – our sophomore year – I think we were just getting a feel for everything. The thing that changed is that we became more of a veteran team. I guess you could say we were hungry. We wanted to win a championship. It didn't matter what kind, so we went out there to play every night. Last year, we tried to repeat that and didn't get a chance to do that in the regular season but we put our minds to it for the tournament. It was kind of nice to go from winning a regular season championship two years ago to a tournament championship last year. And of course, just going to the NCAAAs. We understand what it takes.

**What was it like playing in the Elite Eight and against a program like Tennessee?**

**MICHEAUX:** It was tough.

**STARKS:** Going back to our sophomore year, we were a young team. We never really thought about playing Tennessee some day and I'm pretty sure Tennessee never thought about playing us. Last year we were given the opportunity to play against Duke and Tennessee, and to see how they played the game. We didn't see ourselves as the underdogs – we were ready to take care of business.

**GANT:** Like Takia said, I know those teams never thought of us, and we never thought about them. It was great going against Candace Parker. She was one of the best. I think our team enjoyed that a lot.



**What is your thought process when preparing to play those types of teams?**

**MICHEAUX:** We were excited but we understood they were a great team and we were going to go out there and handle our business and take it half by half. We were down by 2 in the first half, and with 5 or 10 minutes to go. I'm still cringing about it. We were ranked in the top 15, but we didn't really understand what that meant until we played a team that is always in the top 5. Knowing that we can hang with teams like Duke and Tennessee gave us confidence that we have a great ballclub.

**How has the program changed since you got here?**

**GANT:** I think our freshmen year we knew this

team wasn't as great as some, but we all wanted to come in and build the program and that's exactly what we've done. Last year and the year before, we knew just how hard it was going to be. The class that left last year taught us a lot and we're teaching our freshmen a lot. I think it will be a process for the freshmen to get to the level that we are at, but we understand how hard it is and how much work goes into it.

**What are some things you've learned that you can pass on to the underclassmen?**

**MICHEAUX:** Dedication, determination, and learning your game. In high school you think you know everything and you don't. With college ball, you learn the game and love it for what it is. You wouldn't be here if you didn't. I think that's a big challenge. I think that our freshmen are going to realize that this is really what they want. They're doing a great job. I love to see the leadership that they give the other girls. I think this is the first year that we're walking it instead of just talking it.

**What are some of the things you do to help them along?**

**STARKS:** It started this summer. We would reach out to them, see how school was going, and how they were doing with the transition. Find out if they were missing home. You know, as a freshmen you go through a lot of ups and downs and your head can get kind of crazy. We are here to just calm them down and just be an outlet for them, giving them advice about anything they may ask about. With leadership, it all starts in the classroom. This school itself prepares you for the world and a great job when you graduate.

**Who do you see stepping in for Aqua, Morenike and Reado?**

**MICHEAUX:** There's not a certain name because on any given day everyone steps up at different times. They all left a legacy that will be hard to fill. I think the freshmen are going to leave off Aqua's, Morenike's and Reado's shoes in order to make a name for themselves. I think that's what the freshmen really want to do.

**What have you been doing this summer to prepare for the season?**

**GANT:** Well, I was hurt so I wasn't able to do a lot. I did play a lot of pickup games and that was great.

**MICHEAUX:** I did a little bit of traveling and graduated which was my main focus. I didn't do too much for the summer. I was out for a little bit with a knee injury but over the last few

weeks I was able to do a little bit of grinding and I think it's paying off now.

**STARKS:** I've just been focusing on extending my range. If you watch the Tennessee game, I was shooting outside of my range. I feel like this year my range can be unlimited. I focused on getting stronger. I worked on ankle weights and the weight bed. I'm a jump shooter so it helps to make your legs stronger and extend your range. Right now I've been practicing at the men's 3-point line and coach has been getting on to me saying to "get back to the women!" I just tell him, 'Coach, I've gotta extend my range!'

**The program has grown so much since you've been here. Talk about the growth of the 12th Man.**

**STARKS:** During our freshmen year, I used to look out at the crowd before we came out and I'd see a few fans sprinkled around the stands. I think our hard work has paid off because I see a lot more fans out there now. The fans are much more supportive now of women's basketball.

**MICHEAUX:** When we go out there and see those extra fans, it feels so good.

**This is your last season. What would make it your best?**

**MICHEAUX:** I'd like to get another championship ring. I have all the others except the one that says national championship. I have to say, this is going to be a nice year. We have freshmen that are hungry, we have seniors that are hungry and the sophomores and juniors are going to follow, because they don't have a choice. We're capable of getting all the championships but the national championship is what we're about.

**What are you going to miss the most when it's all said and done?**

**MICHEAUX:** The road trips!

**STARKS:** The tournament trips. Coming in our freshmen year and going to Hawaii – that's just crazy. I really enjoy traveling. Of course, the fans and the kids. Most of them are so into it, even though they haven't seen a game of basketball in their lives. When they see us for the first time and they have a little sign or a Danielle Gant shirt on or something, you know that is Danielle's biggest fan. It's just exceptional. I'm really going to miss that.

**GANT:** I'm going to miss my teammates. Our team is so close. We always have fun together.

**MICHEAUX:** I'll always miss my teammates and the college atmosphere. I'll miss Aggeland – period. **AI**

**"The freshmen are doing a great job. I love to see the leadership that they give the other girls. I think this is the first year that we're walking it instead of just talking it."**

**—LA TOYA MICHEAUX**

# the real MCCOYS

Twenty questions for brothers  
Jamie and Terrence McCoy

BY AI STAFF

**What sports did you play together in high school besides football?**

**TERRENCE:** We played varsity basketball for one year and ran track.

**Who was the best track athlete?**

**TERRENCE:** Me.

**JAMIE:** What? Nah...

**Who was the best basketball player?**

**JAMIE:** Me.

**TERRENCE:** I'll let him have basketball.

**Is there any competition between you two?**

**JAMIE:** Not in other sports, but in video games.

**What is your favorite video game?**

**JAMIE:** FIFA (soccer).

**Who is better at FIFA?**

**TERRENCE:** I am.

**JAMIE:** Come on now, you have to be honest in the interview.

**TERRENCE:** We go back and forth, but I win the most.

**JAMIE:** No he doesn't.

**Did you ever imagine playing college football together?**

**JAMIE:** I did. I knew it was a possibility after I got my scholarship. I thought he could get one too.

**TERRENCE:** Not me. I always dreamed about it, like you dream about playing in the pros, but I never thought it would come true.

**Where would you be right now if you hadn't come to A&M?**

**JAMIE:** Probably at home with my mama.

**TERRENCE:** Maybe Purdue.

**What do you do for fun?**

**TERRENCE:** I like to hang out by the pool, play basketball at the rec center, go to the movies and bowling.

**JAMIE:** I like hanging out with friends outside of football.





"I always dreamed about playing together, like you dream about playing in the pros, but I never thought it would come true."

—TERRENCE MCCOY

**Do you play a lot of pickup basketball games at the Rec Center?**

**JAMIE:** Yeah, but not during football season.

**TERRENCE:** We played some soccer this past summer with the girls' soccer team.

**How did you do?**

**JAMIE:** We beat them every game.

**What are your favorite movies?**

**TERRENCE:** The Dark Knight, Wedding Crashers, Old School, Talladega Nights, Step Brothers – I'm a big Will Ferrell fan.

**JAMIE:** I'm a Vince Vaughn fan.

**Who is your favorite pro athlete?**

**JAMIE:** Kobe Bryant.

**TERRENCE:** I'd say Randy Moss.

**Do you have any hidden talents?**

**TERRENCE:** I can flip my lips up like a monkey.

**What is something people don't know about you?**

**JAMIE:** I was born with eleven fingers. They cut the extra one off because it didn't have a bone. And I was born cross-eyed.

**TERRENCE:** I throw up before every football game.

**What are you afraid of?**

**JAMIE:** Any type of bug. Especially locusts. Flies, roaches, spiders – any bug.

**TERRENCE:** I don't like driving a long way at night. I'm afraid I'll fall asleep.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**TERRENCE:** I want to own my own business. Something to do with sports so my kids can grow up in a sports environment. I haven't decided what yet, but I plan on doing an internship sooner or later.

**JAMIE:** Either coaching or something in advertising.

**What is your favorite type of food?**

**TERRENCE:** I like seafood. Crab is my favorite.

**JAMIE:** Mexican food.


**What is your favorite meal in town?**

**JAMIE:** I like quesadillas from Freebirds or Mi Cocina.

**TERRENCE:** Endless shrimp at Red Lobster. Hands down.

**What is your favorite Aggie tradition?**

**JAMIE:** The 12th Man. When the defense is out there and it's a close game, everybody in the student section is standing up and yelling. Even though I'm not on the field, I really like that.

**TERRENCE:** Silver Taps. 



## AT OKLAHOMA ST. <sup>L</sup>

COWBOYS 56, AGS 28

Texas A&M could not overcome early turnovers that led to Oklahoma State touchdowns, resulting in a loss to the Cowboys in the Big 12 opener. The Aggies nearly matched the high-powered OSU offense point-for-point in the second half, but it's almost impossible to come out on top when you commit five turnovers, especially on the road.

### AI KEY PERFORMER:

RB Mike Goodson – Rushing: 8-112 yards, 2 TDs; Receiving: 3-16 yards

## KANSAS ST. <sup>L</sup>

WILDCATS 44, AGS 30

The Aggies racked up a season-high 544 yards of offense and Jerrod Johnson became the first player in school history to throw for over 400 yards in a game, but it was not enough to defeat the Wildcats. Ryan Tannehill set freshman records in both catches (12) and receiving yards (210), but the biggest record to fall was career touchdowns eclipsed by Jorvorskie Lane with 46.

### AI KEY PERFORMER:

WR Ryan Tannehill – 12 catches, 210 yards, 1 TD

## TEXAS TECH <sup>L</sup>

RED RAIDERS 43, AGS 25

In a true tale of two halves, the Aggies put together their best 30 minutes of the season thus far, shocking the Red Raiders by storming to a 23-20 halftime advantage. Unfortunately, nothing went right for A&M in the last 30 minutes, allowing Texas Tech to take control of the game. The Aggie defense played well at times, forcing 3 Red Raider turnovers.

### AI KEY PERFORMER:

DB Trent Hunter – 13 tackles, 1 interception

## AT IOWA ST. <sup>W</sup>

AGS 49, CYCLONES 35

Jerrod Johnson led the Aggies to their first Big 12 win of the season against the Cyclones. The Aggies jumped to a 28-14 lead in the first half and continued to find the endzone to stay ahead of Iowa State. Johnson set career-highs in touchdown passes (4) and completion percentage (79.5%), while Jamie McCoy had seven catches for 110 yards and two scores.

### AI KEY PERFORMER:

QB Jerrod Johnson – Passing: 31-39, 381 yards, 4 TDs; Rushing: 1 TD



11.01.08

## COLORADO BUFFALOES

LAST SEASON: 6-7, 4-4 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

After picking up three quick victories to begin the season, including a thrilling 17-14 overtime win over West Virginia in Boulder, the Buffaloes have been inconsistent at best. Head coach Dan Hawkins replaced his starting quarterback (and son...ouch) Cody Hawkins with Tyler Hansen, a true freshman from California. Quarterback shuffles in midseason typically go hand in hand with offensive struggles, as the Buffs have failed to gain an offensive identity. The defense was a bit sturdier until Missouri rolled up 58 points against them. The biggest mystery, however, has been the productivity (or lack thereof) from ballyhooed freshman Darrell Scott.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

Colorado will bring a balanced attack into Kyle Field, a recipe for disaster for the young Aggie defense so far this season. This could either be Darrell Scott's coming out party, or the first home conference victory of the Mike Sherman era.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sun, Aug 31	Colorado State	W 38-17
Sat, Sep 6	Eastern Washington	W 31-24
Thu, Sep 18	(21) West Virginia	W 17-14
Sat, Sep 27	at Florida State	L 21-39
Sat, Oct 4	(5) Texas	L 14-38
Sat, Oct 11	at (16) Kansas	L 14-30
Sat, Oct 18	Kansas State	W 14-13
Sat, Oct 25	at (16) Missouri	L 0-58
<b>Sat, Nov 1</b>	<b>at Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Nov 8	Iowa State	
Sat, Nov 15	Oklahoma State	
Fri, Nov 28	at Nebraska	



11.08.08

## OKLAHOMA SOONERS

LAST SEASON: 11-3, 6-2 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

Led by Heisman trophy candidate Sam Bradford, the Oklahoma offense has been virtually unstoppable this season, averaging 48 points a game. Only Texas and TCU, two of the nation's best defenses, have been able to somewhat contain the Sooners' offensive attack, and OU still managed to post 35 points in each of those contests. The Sooner defense hasn't been as formidable, however, especially after linebacker Ryan Reynolds went out with a season-ending knee injury against the Longhorns in the Red River Rivalry. Without question, Bob Stoops' defense hasn't been the same since little brother Mike left town for Arizona.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

No matter the circumstances, the Aggies tend to rise to the occasion when the Sooners come to town. With an emerging offensive attack and a defense that has a tendency to give up the big pass, this year's matchup could become an offensive shootout.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sat, Aug 30	Chattanooga	W 57-2
Sat, Sep 6	Cincinnati	W 52-26
Sat, Sep 13	at Washington	W 55-14
Sat, Sep 27	(24) TCU	W 35-10
Sat, Oct 4	at Baylor	W 49-17
Sat, Oct 11	(5) Texas	L 35-45
Sat, Oct 18	(16) Kansas	W 45-31
Sat, Oct 25	at Kansas State	W 58-35
Sat, Nov 1	Nebraska	
<b>Sat, Nov 8</b>	<b>at Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Nov 22	Texas Tech	
Sat, Nov 29	at Oklahoma State	



11.15.08

## AT BAYLOR BEARS

LAST SEASON: 3-9, 0-8 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

There's no denying it, the Baylor football program has shown marked improvement under first-year head coach Art Briles. True freshman quarterback Robert Griffin has emerged as one of the Big 12's premier young playmakers, and can move the football with his strong arm or quick feet. A host of young receivers give Griffin options to choose from, but one-time A&M commitment Kendall Wright has emerged as his primary target. Defensively, linebacker Joe Pawelek and safety Jordan Lake consistently find themselves at the top of the leaderboard in tackles, and are probable All-Big 12 selections at season's end.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

This year's matchup at Floyd Casey Stadium will likely bring more excitement to Waco since... Well, ever. The Aggies must weather this storm to keep the Bears at the bottom of the Big 12 South (where they belong).

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Thu, Aug 28	(23) Wake Forest	L 13-41
Sat, Sep 6	Northwestern State	W 51-6
Fri, Sep 12	Washington State	W 45-17
Fri, Sep 19	at Connecticut	L 28-31
Sat, Oct 4	(1) Oklahoma	L 17-49
Sat, Oct 11	Iowa State	W 38-10
Sat, Oct 18	at (8) Oklahoma State	L 6-34
Sat, Oct 25	at Nebraska	L 20-32
Sat, Nov 1	(16) Missouri	
Sat, Nov 8	at Texas	
<b>Sat, Nov 15</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Nov 29	at Texas Tech	



11.27.08

## AT TEXAS LONGHORNS

LAST SEASON: 10-3, 5-3 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

Another week, another Heisman Trophy finalist facing the Aggie defense. Colt McCoy has emerged as the unquestioned leader of the offense. Despite an inconsistent running game, the Longhorn offensive line has been good enough to provide McCoy with ample time to distribute the football to a talented receiving corps. Senior Wide receiver Jordan Shipley has finally overcome injury troubles and is putting together a solid final season. Defensively, Texas has as much talent as anyone in the country, and All-American defensive end Brian Orakpo doesn't give opposing quarterbacks enough time to pick on a young secondary.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

On paper, there doesn't seem to be much hope for the Aggies. Fortunately, games are not won on paper, and with rivalry games, all expectations can be thrown out the window. McCoy might be a great quarterback, but he's never beaten the Aggies. BTHot!

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sat, Aug 30	Florida Atlantic	W 52-10
Sat, Sep 6	at UTEP	W 42-13
Sat, Sep 20	Rice	W 52-10
Sat, Sep 27	Arkansas	W 52-10
Sat, Oct 4	at Colorado	W 38-14
Sat, Oct 11	(1) Oklahoma	W 45-35
Sat, Oct 18	(11) Missouri	W 56-31
Sat, Oct 25	(7) Oklahoma State	W 28-24
Sat, Nov 1	at (6) Texas Tech	
Sat, Nov 8	Baylor	
Sat, Nov 15	at Kansas	
<b>Thu, Nov 27</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M</b>	



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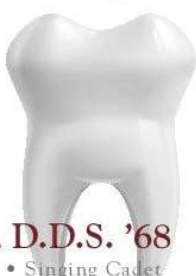
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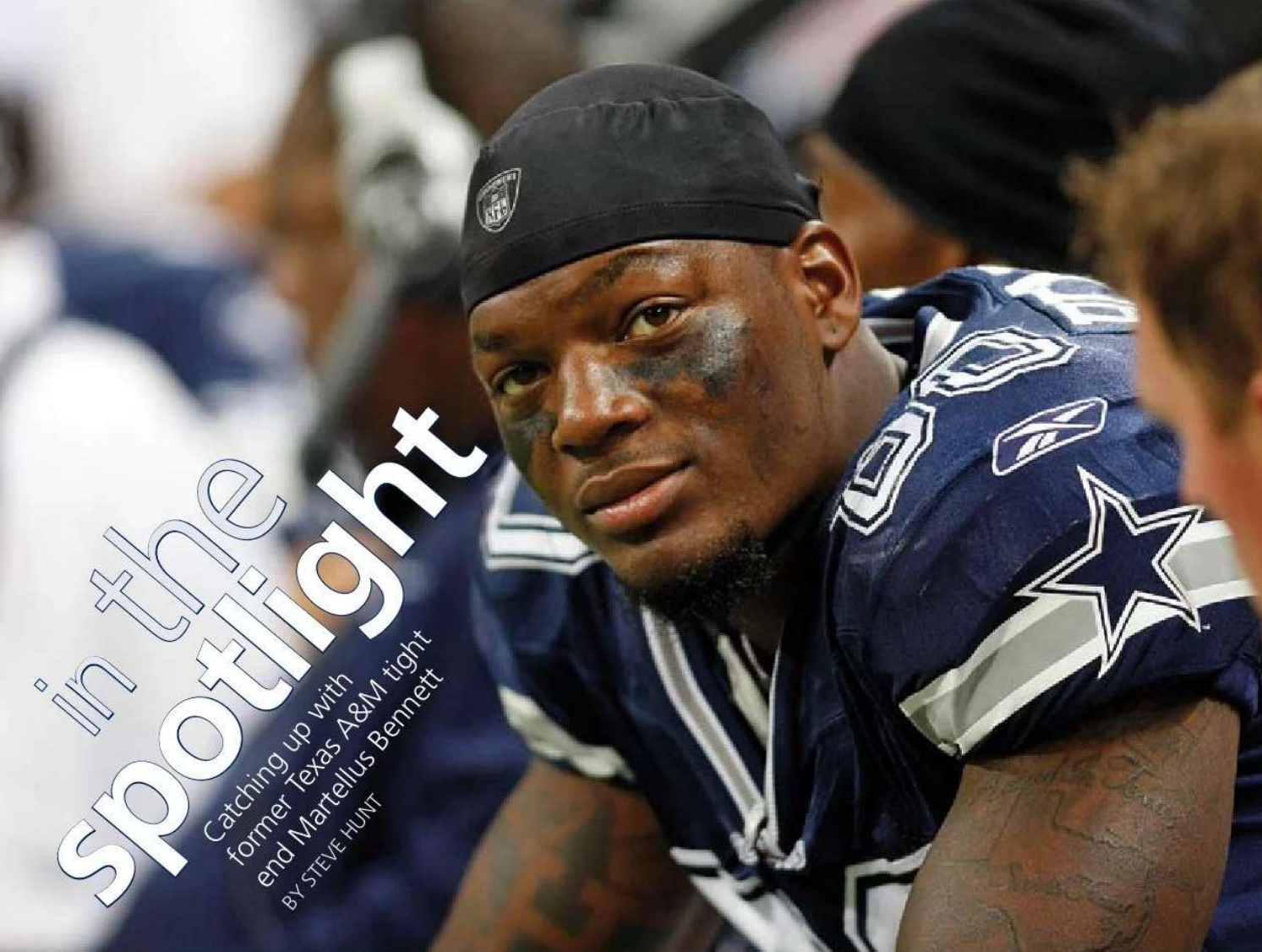
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# in the spotlight

Catching up with  
former Texas A&M tight  
end Martellus Bennett  
BY STEVE HUNT

Martellus Bennett is no stranger to the spotlight. During his three seasons at Texas A&M, the tight end had a knack for delivering a memorable play on the field and also for uttering equally-notable sound bytes off the field. Following three solid seasons with the Aggies, he left school early last spring for the NFL and was a second-round pick of the Dallas Cowboys, going 61st overall.

"It was a great experience," Bennett said of his time at A&M. "Aggieland is like no other. You go to College Station and you're an Aggie for life. It's still a part of me."

Bennett calls the opportunity to play at Kyle Field an unforgettable experience.

"It's remarkable," he said. "When you come out there with the drums beating and the cadets marching, it's very exciting. The fans are standing up all the time and yelling. Sometimes you can't hear yourself think."

Fortunately for Bennett, playing in front of over 80,000 at Kyle on Saturdays to over 65,000 at Texas Stadium on Sundays has been familiar to him.

"The fans get loud and crazy sometimes like they did in Aggieland," he said. "But they sit back down."

From the moment he stepped foot on campus, it was apparent that Bennett was destined to move on to professional sports. The

only question was whether it would be on the football field or the basketball court.

That question was answered when Bennett gave up basketball during his sophomore year to focus strictly on football. The decision wasn't easy, but it paid off.

Shortly after his junior season, Bennett faced one of the biggest decisions of his life. He could stay and play one more year of college football in Aggieland under new head coach Mike Sherman, or he could enter the NFL Draft. The projections showed him going in either the first or second round, so he decided to go for it.

Before being drafted, he had to endure a unique rite of passage for the top prospects – going to league's annual Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

"It's a meat market," Bennett said. "You're up there on stage

"Aggieland is like no other. You go to College Station and you're an Aggie for life. It's still a part of me."

—MARTELLUS BENNETT

with your shirt off and they're pinching you trying to see if you've got any fat. They want to see how fast you run and how high you can jump. It's the ultimate test – a three-day experience that's really draining.”

On draft day, Bennett assumed his name would be called in the first few rounds but had no inkling about a possible destination.

“Growing up in Houston and going to College Station, it's great to be in Dallas,” he admits. It's great to come to a team with a lot of experience and a lot of history behind it just like at A&M. It couldn't be any better for me.”

Like it is for every rookie, getting acclimated to the NFL has been a series of adjustments.

“Just the daily grind has been the biggest challenge,” Bennett said. “There are so many little things that matter now. It's not just about being super athletic up here.”

The Cowboy newcomer also feels that many fans have the wrong idea about the life of a professional athlete.

“This is a job,” Bennett said. “We're up here from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, so when you get home, you're tired. We have practices and meetings all day. Just like CEOs, we have meetings all day to come up with better ideas and better ways to do things. It's a great job though because we're getting paid to do what we love to do.”

However, one thing that hasn't been new is being surrounded by TV cameras and reporters on a daily basis.

“I have faced scrutiny everywhere I've been,” he said. “We're

“This is a job. We're up here from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, so when you get home, you're tired. Just like CEOs, we have meetings all day to come up with better ideas and better ways to do things.”

—MARTELLUS BENNETT



America's team, so everybody is out to get you. It's just part of being out there. Once you're a Dallas Cowboy, you're a public figure. People probably know more Cowboys than players for any other team.”

Playing behind a perennial Pro Bowler like Jason Witten, considered one of the NFL's top tight ends, is something Bennett views as a big positive.

“I just sit back and pick his brain,” he said. “I'm still my own player, so I try to take little things from him and add them to my repertoire of things that I can do. He's a great player. His preparation is like none other, so it's pretty cool to be working with someone like that.”

Through the first half the season, Bennett has eight receptions and one touchdown, while standing out with his blocking and effort on special teams. While he has experienced the usual ups and downs of a first-year pro, he has also impressed coaches and teammates with his athletic ability and work ethic.

Those same traits place him in a select group of elite athletes who have played for Texas A&M. But his character and personality set him apart from the rest.

“I look back at everything I went through with my teammates, Coach Fran, Coach Gillispie, Acie Law and Joe Jones,” he said. “I built so many relationships there and learned so much. That helped make me the person that I am now.”

And that's a person whom Aggie fans are proud to have in the spotlight. **MI**



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# A WORLD CLASS HOME

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

World-class athletic programs go hand-in-hand with world-class facilities. The Texas A&M men's and women's basketball programs have risen in the national rankings and proven themselves as elite contenders, with each making trips to the NCAA tournament in consecutive years, so a facilities upgrade seems more than proper.

Thanks to the hard work of the 12th Man Foundation and the generous support of Aggie boosters, the all new Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball now reflects both programs' prominence with its world-class, state-of-the-art features. This fall, Mark Turgeon, Gary Blair and all parties involved with the men's and women's hoops teams began their transition into the 68,000-square-foot facility attached to Reed Arena.

"It's big time," Turgeon said. "I've been through it a lot of times since it started going up and every time I walk through it, I get excited. It's a very impressive building. I hope this building and our success in the last few years will give us a chance to help this program grow."

The \$22-million-dollar facility features all new practice gyms (bottom left), coaches offices, locker rooms (top right), players' lounges, medical and training facilities (bottom right), a weight room and more.

"It will be very similar to the Bright Complex," Blair added. "When we first moved into the Bright Complex, no one in the country had anything like it. The Cox-McFerrin Center is state-of-the-art just like the pro facilities for the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Cowboys. Our players are going to love it."

As evidenced in the pictures shown, these are more than just your typical upgrades. For instance, the gigantic oak lockers are more like closets than an actual "locker" that you may have shared with three other teammates back in high school. Each locker will have a computer and video screen that can be accessed to review game and practice tapes and do academic work



or research. And with around 60 television screens in the facility, you might think you are in Circuit City instead of a college athlete's training facility.

Even still, these are the types of amenities that draw championship-caliber recruits. So far so good, as both Turgeon and Blair are hauling in nationally ranked classes with commitments from all across the country.

Indeed, the new Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball is already reaping benefits on a national scale, and will give both programs the competitive edge needed to continue to climb to the highest level. **A**





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(left) Coach Childress and the Aggie baseball team saw varsity's horns off with the Kyle Field crowd. (above) Former Texas A&M Yell Leaders show they still have what it takes during the Texas Tech game. (below, left) Apollo VII astronaut Walter Cunningham sings the National Anthem with No. 41 (a.k.a. Former President George Bush) and Texas Governor Rick Perry. (middle) Several students like the mobile kissing booth shown here got out their Halloween costumes early for free admission to the Kansas volleyball match. (below, right) The 12th Man yells "sounds like hell" during the Oklahoma State soccer match. (bottom, left) This young Aggie does her best to help the Ags against Kansas State. (bottom, middle) R.C. Slocum and members of the 1998 Big 12 Champion football team held their ten year reunion at the Kansas State game.





(above) The museum, which had about 30,000 visitors last year, contains over 8,000-square-feet of Aggie sports memorabilia, uniforms, trophies, videos, photographs and sporting equipment. (below, left) Aggie Linda Waltman would have competed in the 1980 Summer Olympics, but the U.S. boycotted the Moscow Games to protest the Soviet war in Afghanistan. (below, right) Among the hardware housed at the museum is the 1983 Softball National Championship trophy. (bottom) The Sugar Bowl trophy and Dat Nguyen's jersey from the 1998 Big 12 Championship season.



# history finds **A HOME**

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

Home to treasures and tales of Aggie history, the Texas A&M Sports Museum has the distinction of being the nation's only all-sports museum funded primarily by former athletes.

When the Lettermen's Lounge began their expansion project, the former museum lost a patio and room for exhibits. When the Athletic Department offered some space in the corner of the Bernard C. Richardson Zone at Kyle Field, the Board of Directors put an appeal to all former athletes to fund the expansion. With a goal of \$1.7 million, former athletes contributed \$2.3 million to help design and build the complex. The former athletes then donated the space back to the Athletic Department as a "thank you" for all the university had done for them.

"We have a committee of former athletes that discusses what they'd like to see displayed on the walls at the museum," director Cathy Capps '85 said. "It is truly run by former athletes and every varsity sport is represented."


The museum is broken into five areas: Timewall, Legends Gallery, Perimeter Displays, Computer Interactives and a Donor Wall.

The Timewall contains black and white pictures of the earliest days of the university which remind visitors of the founder's efforts, while bright forms of life and color celebrate a prosperous present and foretell an unbridled future.

The core of the exhibit is the Legends Gallery, which celebrates and reinforces tradition and achievement of former athletes through photographs and memorabilia.

The Perimeter Displays exhibit each of the different sports, as well as the Aggie Band, Yell Leaders and each of the traditions that instill Aggie Spirit.

Guests can revisit photos and videos of great plays and memorable moments of years gone by in the Computer Interactives area. A video wall in the back of the museum displays highlights from all the sports.

The Texas A&M Sports Museum is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. on game days and is free to all visitors. Learn more about the museum online by visiting <http://lettermen.tamu.edu/museum.php> 



(top) This helmet belonged to Aggie Heart Award recipient Mike Dinero in 1969. Dinero passed away in 1970, but his spirit lived on in his teammates. (above) The 1939 Sugar Bowl trophy was lost until a few years ago when it was discovered in a Kyle Field storage room. Athletes did not receive rings back then, but in 1999, the Lettermen's Association raised money to buy rings and awarded them to the players and the deceased players' families. It only took three phone calls to raise the money. (below, left) These contact lenses belonged to football player Jim Cashion, the brother of Red Cashion. (below, right) The lettermen's jackets are one of the most popular attractions at the museum.



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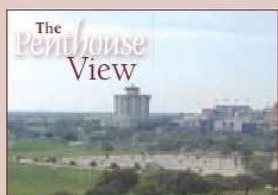
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# the art of fishing

BY STEPHANIE WHITEHEAD '10



The art of a well-crafted fishing rod is often overlooked by the average fisherman who heads out to the lake twice a year. The true fisherman, on the other hand, understands the fine points of crafting the perfect tool specifically designed to fit your fishing needs. Custom-made rods are few and far between these days due to the time and cost that goes into making them.

Tommy Nuche '72 filled this niche in the Bryan/College Station area by opening The Rod & Reel Center in 2003. His shop is the only one between here and Houston that builds high performance custom rods and offers full-service cleaning, repair, upgrading and restoration of all brands of rods and reels including vintage equipment.

Nuche constructs each rod himself exactly to the customer's specifications. Every single component of the rod fits a specific action or kind of fishing. What makes Nuche's rods unique is the artistic touch that he brings to them through the colorful, intricate designs used in the wraps. He uses metallic threads that, although more difficult to wrap, catch your attention as they shimmer in the sunlight.

According to Nuche, there are very few rod masters that do what he does as far as aesthetics of the rod. He considers himself to be an artist with his craft. These one-of-a-kind pieces take incredible patience and a critical eye to create. Nuche stands behind the quality of his product and has been known to completely re-do a rod if he finds a single flaw in it, even if that means sacrificing 20 hours of hard work.


"The thing that sets his rods apart from production style rods is his passion for beauty and quality," says Bill Ingram, a Rod & Reel Center customer. "Every rod is a 'master work' to him. Every reel that he works on is 'one of his children.'"

Nuche's lifelong passion for fishing has been the foundation

of many of his closest friendships. In 1974, he formed the Aggie Bass Club after two students approached him with the idea. At the time, he was the inventory supervisor at the Purchasing and Storage Building at Texas A&M and spent every weekend on the water. As the sponsor for the new club, he had the opportunity to attend tournaments all over Texas and fish with students and faculty alike.

While in the bass club, he began cleaning friend's reels and learning to build rods. Although he spent the next few decades in real estate, Nuche continued to fish and build rods as a hobby. It was not until 2003 that he acquired the patience and the opportunity to do it full-time for paying customers. Since then he has had the privilege of hiring ten A&M students and passing along his skill in a time-honored craft. Nuche's customers range from local professors and students to an order in Australia. Nuche considers himself a lucky man for all that he has accomplished.

"I've done something with my life that I've always wanted to do," he says.

Merging his creative side with his love for fishing has resulted in a piece of art that anyone can appreciate, even if they can't tell a rod from a reel. 





## Basket Ball

This year marked the first appearance of an A. & M. Basket Ball Team. Although a modest start was made it was a certain one and within another season or two representative teams will be able to give any State College team a hard race.

Much credit is due Coach Steger and Captain Eddie Dreiss for their interest in and efforts towards building up a team. Against many handicaps they finally put out a bunch of fast athletes, who, although their games were confined to second-raters, deserved to be matched with the Intercollegiate champion. After the strike, the prospects for a good team were indeed gloomy, for we had lost a number of fast men, several of whom were football stars, but with the return of Montgomery and Braumiller the outlook brightened and work was resumed.

Mention must be made of the admirable work of Calowell and Dreiss at forward, O'Connor and Montgomery at Center, and Braumiller and Peter as guards.



Following are the scores of the games played:

Marlin High.....	8	A. & M.....	78
Galveston Y. M. C. A.....	14	A. & M.....	72
S. H. N. I.....	9	A. & M.....	72
Galveston Y. M. C. A.....	27	A. & M.....	25
S. H. N. I.....	12	A. & M.....	40
Houston High.....	26	A. & M.....	24
Total, Opponents.....	96	A. & M.....	311





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“A long time ago, an aristocratic French woman walked into my clinic with a mutt she’d rescued,” veterinarian Mark Van Ness recalled, “and I knew this lady was all heart.” Over the next 25 years, Nicole de Roumefort brought all her dogs to Mark. Oil portraits of *Vicomte Doliver* and *Baron Toufou* adorn his clinic’s walls. “Fancy names for mixed-breed orphans,” Mark reflected, “Nicole always said these were the ones that really needed her love.”

Many years later, in failing health herself, Madame de Roumefort consulted with Mark on how to use her estate to help animals. They agreed on funding veterinary scholarships since, as Mark said, “producing more vets will help dogs forever.” Nicole and Mark contacted Bubba Woytek, the Texas A&M Foundation’s development officer for the College of Veterinary Medicine, and with his help established the *de Roumefort-Van Ness Scholarship Fund*.

The French lady with the big heart is gone now, but soon her fund will support its first veterinary students, carrying on her love for dogs. Nicole de Roumefort’s generosity, inspired by Dr. Mark Van Ness, is now part of A&M’s future. Create your own legacy. Call the Texas A&M Foundation and ask for your college’s director of development. When you’re ready to immortalize your spirit and mind, we’re ready for you.



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